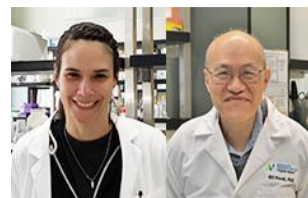


Publications of the Week

Cross-Reactive and Mono-Reactive SARS-CoV-2 CD4⁺ T Cells in Prepandemic and COVID-19 Convalescent Individuals

First Author: Alexandra Johansson (*pictured, left*) | Senior Author: William Kwok (*right*)
 PLoS Pathogens | Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason, Fred Hutch, and UW



The authors used class II tetramer reagents for eleven common DR alleles and a DP allele prevalent in the world population to identify SARS-CoV-2 CD4⁺ T cell epitopes. Direct *ex vivo* staining of peripheral blood mononuclear cells with tetramer reagents was used to define immunodominant and subdominant T cell epitopes and estimate the frequencies of these T cells in SARS-CoV-2 exposed and naive individuals. [Abstract](#)

Redirecting Meiotic DNA Break Hotspot Determinant Proteins Alters Localized Spatial Control of DNA Break Formation and Repair

First Author: Randy Hyppa | Senior Author: Gerald Smith (*pictured*)
 Nucleic Acids Research | Fred Hutch



In the fission yeast *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, the linear element proteins Rec25, Rec27 and Mug20 are hotspot determinants – they bind hotspots with high specificity and are necessary for nearly all double-strand breaks at hotspots. To assess whether they are also sufficient for hotspot determination, the authors localized each linear element protein to a novel chromosomal site by fusion to the *Escherichia coli* LacI repressor. [Abstract](#)

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Local News

Scientists Identify Antibodies That Can Neutralize Omicron

UW Medicine



An international team of scientists have identified antibodies that neutralize omicron and other SARS-CoV-2 variants. By identifying the targets of these “broadly neutralizing” antibodies on the spike protein, it might be possible to design vaccines and antibody treatments that will be effective against not only the omicron variant but other variants that may emerge in the future, said Dr. David Veesler (*pictured*), who led the research project with Dr. Davide Corti of Humabs Biomed. [Read More](#)

BioLife Solutions Collaborates with Seattle Children's to Improve Viral Vector and Cell and Gene Therapy Manufacturing

BioLife Solutions



BioLife Solutions, a leading supplier of class-defining bioproduction tools and services for the cell and gene therapy and broader biopharma markets, announced an extended collaboration with Seattle Children's Therapeutics, bringing cutting edge, curative technologies and therapies to defeat pediatric cancer and other diseases that impact children. [Read More](#)

Allen Institute Announces Rui Costa as Next President and Chief Executive Officer

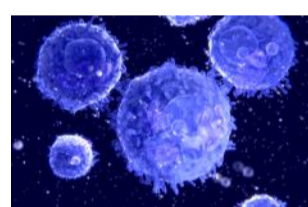
Allen Institute



The Allen Institute named Dr. Rui Costa (*pictured*) as its next President and Chief Executive Officer. Dr. Costa comes to the Allen Institute from the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute at Columbia University in New York where he has served as CEO since 2017. Dr. Costa has more than two decades of experience in bioscience and is a renowned expert in the brain circuitry that underlies movement. [Read More](#)

Inside the Sound Life Project: How BRI Is Studying Health to Understand Disease

Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason (BRI)



In 2019, BRI launched the Sound Life Project, a two-year study aiming to learn more about the range of what healthy immune systems look like. Despite the pandemic, researchers have pushed forward and are moving toward creating a highly detailed portrait of the immune system. The Sound Life Project takes an especially deep dive into the immune system, collecting vast amounts of data over a long period of time. [Read More](#)

Improving Hypospadias Outcomes Through Novel Research

Seattle Children's



Hypospadias is a birth defect where the opening of the urethra, the tube that carries urine from the bladder to the outside of the body, is not located at the tip of the penis. Dr. Nicolas Fernandez (*pictured*), a pediatric urologist at Seattle Children's and surgeon scientist at UW, is working on a research project that aims to reduce the subjectivity of assessing the tissue used for surgery to correct the condition. [Read More](#)

Good Therapeutics Lands \$8M to Develop Protein Drugs That Work Only Where Needed in the Body

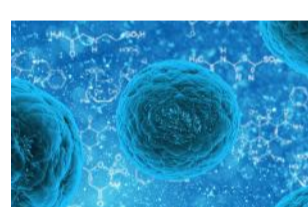
GeekWire



Good Therapeutics, led by CEO John Mulligan (*pictured*), has raised \$8 million to advance its therapeutic proteins designed to operate only where they are needed in the body. The company's protein therapeutics reversibly switch from an inactive to an active form only when they bind to their target. By controlling where and when a therapeutic is active, the approach can direct the effects to specific cells or tissues and minimize toxicity. [Read More](#)

Curi Bio Closes \$10M Series A in Oversubscribed Round

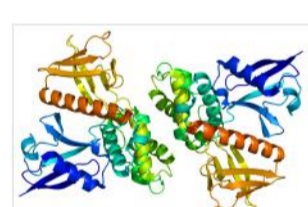
Curi Bio



Curi Bio, a leading developer of human stem cell-based platforms for drug discovery, announced the second closing of a \$10 million oversubscribed Series A financing. The investment will be used to scale Curi's existing business and accelerate the development of its innovative engineered tissue analysis platforms, including its Mantarray™ platform. [Read More](#)

Biosensor Startup Monod Lands \$6M and Spins Out of UW's Institute for Protein Design

GeekWire



A new biotech startup has hatched from the UW Institute for Protein Design (IPD) with \$6 million in funding and a leadership team fresh from Neoleukin Therapeutics, another IPD spinout. Monod Bio is developing biosensors that can quickly detect viral proteins, toxins, antibodies, or other molecules. The sensors are built from engineered proteins developed at the IPD. When the sensor recognizes its target, it emits light. [Read More](#)

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- January 13**
 8:00 AM **CFAR Seminar: Advanced HIV in the Era of Test and Start**
 Online
- January 14**
 12:00 PM **Science Fridays**
 Online
- January 18**
 4:00 PM **Research Roundtable – Dr. Jim Heath**
 Online
- January 20**
 10:30 AM **Distinguished Seminar Series – Nii Addy**
 Online
- January 21**
 9:00 AM **SEP School Year Workshop: DNA Exonerations**
 Online

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Science Jobs in Seattle

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- Postdoctoral Fellow, Dynamic Systems Biology**
 Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason
- Cell Therapy Specialist**
 Seattle Cancer Care Alliance
- Research Associate, Immuno-Oncology**
 Kineta
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